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Empire Day

in the

Schools

of

Ontario

Tuesday, May 23rd

1933

Department of Education
Ontario

**Greetings
from
the Minister of Education**

T*o teachers is given in a large measure the opportunity of instilling in the impressionable minds of the young the feelings of patriotism, not only for our own native land, but also for the Empire of which we form a part. In order to emphasize the importance of this opportunity, there has been set apart the day known as Empire Day,—a day on which we turn aside from the routine of our regular tasks, and devote our time to the study of the Empire as a whole.*

In these difficult days, no more patriotic service can be rendered by teachers than that of directing the minds of their pupils to the high principles for which the Motherland has stood throughout the centuries, and to the enduring courage with which she carries on under the weight of the burdens laid upon her. The emphasizing of these truths cannot fail to awaken in young hearts the deepest sympathy, and loyalty, and reverent regard.

I therefore trust that all teachers will take advantage of the opportunities afforded through the medium of Empire Day exercises to do their part in creating and strengthening the ties of Empire.

GEO. S. HENRY,
Minister of Education.

Suggestions for Programmes

THE CHARACTER of the programme to be used in the observation of Empire Day is very definitely laid down in the General Regulations, Public and Separate Schools. The Regulation referred to reads as follows:

"Empire Day, the last school day before the 24th of May, shall be duly celebrated in every school; the forenoon being devoted to a study of the greatness of the British Empire, and the afternoon to public addresses, recitations, music, etc., of a patriotic character."

Material for this programme may be obtained from patriotic selections in The Ontario Readers, from the Public School Geography, and from Empire Day Booklets of former years.

Additional material may also be found in such books as "The Canadian Flag-Day Book" (Longmans, Green, Toronto), and "Class-room Plays from Canadian History" (J. M. Dent & Sons, Toronto).

Little books containing suitable drills and exercises for this occasion are published by The Educational Publishing Company, 36 Shuter Street, Toronto; and teachers interested should write to this firm for catalogues.

"The New Educational Music Course" — Teachers' Edition, by A. T. Cringan (Canada Publishing Company, Toronto), contains many songs suitable for the occasion.

It is assumed that the public will be invited to these Empire Day exercises, and that representative persons in the community will be asked to give short addresses on the subject of the Empire.

Imperial Conferences

THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE was constituted under the terms of a resolution of the Colonial Conference of 1907, in which it was proposed to hold, every four years, a conference to be known as "The Imperial Conference."

Prior to the Conference of 1907 there were four Colonial Conferences (three in London and one in Ottawa), in the years 1887, 1894, 1897, and 1902.

The first Imperial Conference was held in London in 1911. In 1917 and again in 1918 it met as an Imperial War Conference, its special purpose being to take counsel regarding the prosecution of the War. The next meetings were in 1923 and 1926.

The 1926 Conference was a memorable one, because of the fact that in it was defined the status of the various Dominions constituting the Empire—"autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status . . . united by a common allegiance to the Crown . . ."

In 1930 the Conference again met in London, and in 1932 in Ottawa. At the latter meeting the discussions centred around the question of inter-Empire preferences in commerce, with the object of making the Empire as a whole more than ever self-contained in matters of trade, and thus more closely united by commercial ties as well as by those of sentiment.

GOD SAVE THE KING